

House Resolution 56 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Heard of the 104th, England of the 108th, Hamilton of the 23rd, Knox of the 24th, Reese of the 98th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 To urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Congress to begin
2 a study of the costs and effects of adding to the storage capacities of all Corps reservoirs in
3 the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, as growth and prosperity continue to evolve in Georgia, the demand for water
5 continues to be a major focus item for Georgia executives and stakeholders; and

6 WHEREAS, the situation is exacerbated by the tri-states negotiations among Georgia,
7 Florida, and Alabama that have been in debate for over 15 years; and

8 WHEREAS, whenever a drought occurs, the problem becomes even more severe; and

9 WHEREAS, additional water supplies would help ameliorate the problem, but new reservoirs
10 are extremely expensive and there is no readily available location in Georgia for new storage
11 capability; and

12 WHEREAS, raising the full pool levels of Corps reservoirs in the state would substantially
13 increase the available water supply in Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, this increase could be managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers
15 by simply allowing lake levels to increase as weather and rainfall permits above the present
16 full pool levels; and

17 WHEREAS, this increased supply will assist in the managed economic growth of the State
18 of Georgia and will provide additional storage buffers in the case of drought; and

19 WHEREAS, additional water supply for Georgia will help answer additional water needs as
20 growth in population and prosperity puts requirements on more water throughout the state;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, the costs of such action are minimal compared to newly created reservoirs and
2 could be implemented in 12 to 18 months, whereas new and costly reservoirs could take a
3 decade or longer.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 the members of this body urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United
6 States Congress to begin a study of the costs and effects of adding to the storage capacities
7 of all Corps reservoirs located throughout the State of Georgia.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
9 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the United States Army
10 Corps of Engineers and each member of the Georgia Congressional delegation.